

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed June 23, 2004, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration.

As a preliminary matter, Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of claims 1-11 and 36-39.

Claims 12-17, 23-28, and 34-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C . §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Peters et al. Although Applicant disagrees with this rejection, Applicant notes that claims 18-22 and 29-33 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Although Applicant disagrees with the rejection over Peters, for purposes of expediting prosecution, Applicant has cancelled claims 12, 17, 23, and 28. The subject matter of claims 12 and 17 has been incorporated into claim 18 and the dependencies of claims 13, 14, and 15 have been changed to depend from claim 18. Accordingly, claims 13-22 should now be in allowable condition. Similarly, the subject matter of claims 23 and 28 has been incorporated into claim 29 and the dependencies of claims 24-26 have been changed to depend from claim 29 and the dependency of claim 34 has been changed to depend from claim 29. Accordingly, claims 24-27, and 29-35 should now be in allowable condition.

As a result of this response, claims 1-11, 13-16, 18-22, 24-27, and 29-39 should now be in allowable condition.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application should now be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this amendment, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee

occasioned by this response, including an extension fee that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this document is being placed in the United States mail with first-class postage attached, addressed to Mail Stop , Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on September 23, 2004.

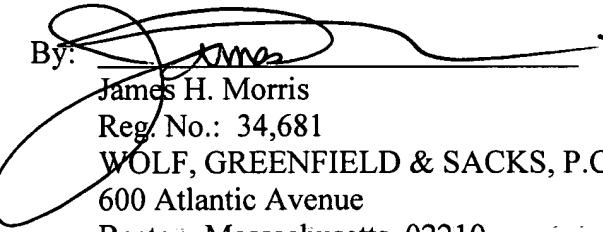


Attorney Docket No.: S1022.80494US00
X09/23/04

Respectfully submitted,

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